GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6323
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2003
DESILTING OF PONDS AND TANKS
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken a decision in the past to desiit all the villages ponds and tanks as per Standing Committee Report No. 33 of 2002;

(b) if so, the number of ponds and tanks which desiited in the country, State-wise and UT-wise:

(c) whether village ponds and tanks are still-stinking;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether illegal colonies have come up on the ponds in NCR after filling up the ponds;and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL):

(a) to (d) The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development launched a one-timecampaign for restoration of traditional sources of water harvesting by desiltation of ponds/tanks at village level during 2002-2003. This campaign was to be undertaken by the State Governments through District Authorities utilizing the funds released under differentprogrammes of the Ministry of Rural Development. This was. not a separate Programme/Schemeof the Department of Land Resources/Ministry nor was any separate allocation of funds made for this purpose.

(e) and (f) As land is a State subject, the illegal encroachment on public land is be dealt by the State/UT concerned.